

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



University of Iowa - Hygienic Laboratory

Purpose

Established in 1904, the State Hygienic Laboratory serves all of Iowa's 99 counties through disease detection, environmental monitoring, and newborn and maternal screening. The main facilities are headquartered on the University of Iowa's Research Park campus in Coralville, Iowa. Additional testing facilities are part of the Iowa Laboratory Facilities in Ankeny, Iowa.

In the early years, the Hygienic Laboratory tested for typhoid, diphtheria, rabies, and tuberculosis. Today, the Laboratory also quickly responds to other infectious disease threats, including mumps, whooping cough, Salmonella, and global threats such as HIV and tuberculosis. The Lab's mission has also expanded to address bioterrorism and chemical terrorism response and readiness.

An Environmental Protection Agency-certified facility, the Hygienic Laboratory conducts testing of drinking water as mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The staff also works with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to monitor waterways throughout the state for contaminants and to assess air quality in real time and through lab testing.

The Hygienic Laboratory provides potentially lifesaving newborn screening for every child born in Iowa as the laboratory designated by the Iowa Department of Public Health through the Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders. This highly specialized screening is also provided for babies born in North Dakota and South Dakota.

Funding

State support for the Laboratory hit its low point in FY 1995 at \$3.1 million and has been funded at a high of \$4.4 million since FY 2014.

Related Statute and Administrative Rule

Iowa Code section [263.7](#)

[681](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [5](#)

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More Information

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory: <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/>

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